

# PROPOSALS

FOR ESTABLISHING

## A NUMBER OF FARMS,

LIKE THOSE OF

New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and  
Delaware.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE

*WESTERN DISTRICTS OF NORTH CAROLINA,*

FOR

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE SETTLERS,

AND OF

THE TRADE OF CHARLESTON, WILMINGTON, (N.C.) FAYETTEVILLE,  
GEORGETOWN, (S.C.) AUGUSTA, AND SAVANNAH;

AND OF

*The Planters on the Sea-coast of the two Carolinas,*

Who raise Sugar, Rice, Indigo, Cotton, and Tobacco, and make lumber and  
Naval Stores, and may not raise Grain or Cattle.

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1816.





## PROPOSALS, &c.

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### *The Western Districts of North Carolina.*

THE lands, in the western districts of this state, combine the advantages of being capable to produce and mature the grains, grasses, animals, and fruits of the middle, northern and eastern states, and some of those productions, which the climates, from Pennsylvania inclusively to Vermont, Maine and Indiana, do not suit. On *the head streams* of Santee river, for example, (being Broad, Pacolet and Greene rivers, in North Carolina), and on the heads of the Catawba, in the same state, the soil and climate will produce and mature wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelts, millet, Indian corn, sheep, horned cattle, horses, swine, poultry, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, pumpkins, apples, currants, cherries, flax, hemp, woad and madder, like Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, &c.; and the lands on those North Carolina rivers, will also produce cotton, indigo, tobacco, upland rice, the wine and raisin grape, the cork tree, the olive, the canary seed, the prune, the fig, the date, the silk worm, the fine woolled sheep of Spain, the superior breeds of horses of Spain and Arabia, and the ass and mule of the south of Europe. Iron is very abundant in all the counties upon those waters, and there are many other strong mineral symptoms and

appearances. The various mines of Mexico lie due west of North Carolina, and though no deceptive promise ought to be held out, the chances are obvious in the hilly lands and western counties of this state. Mines are constantly found among hills, and even among mountain lands, in all countries.

The counties of the southern states, on *the seaboard*, are so obviously tempted to devote all their attention to cotton, rice, indigo, tobacco, and sugars, that they may be considered, in that respect, like the sugar and cotton islands, called the West Indies. They require near settlements, like the Pennsylvania farms, to supply them with all kinds of choice and common flour and meal, common and fat cattle, working and blood horses, mules, swine, mutton, hams, bacon, tongues, tripe, hung beef, butter, lard, and cheese, with many manufactures of wood, metal, yarn, and leather, in peace and in war, and especially in war.

It is an ascertained fact, that a barrel of 196 pounds net, of the best Philadelphia superfine flour, with the cask, used to cost in A.D. 1772 to 1775, no more than three dollars and one half to four dollars, in that port, which was then the lowest in America for the best flour. But for the last twelve months, it has been two and one half times that price; viz. 9 to 10 dollars. Flour of the same quality, even in the cheapest markets, on the Chesapeake, has been double the old Philadelphia prices of 1772 to 1775. It is also certain, that in consequence of the demand in Europe and the West Indies and other wants, the price of superfine flour in Philadelphia on the 1st day of December 1816, was 12 dollars and 50 cents per barrel, and Indian corn was 1 dollar 75 cents per bushel. The counties on the sea-coast, especially around Charleston, will of course have to pay very great prices for grain, bread, bacon, but-



ter, &c. &c. The best flour was worth fifteen dollars at Charleston in November 1816.

Boats, made of wood costing little, can take as many barrels down the Broad river, or Catawba, as several wagons will carry. They have been built at the saw pits, and saw mills, and drawn on wagon wheels to the boatable waters, and launched into them for use. When they arrive in Charleston, they are worth, as lumber, more than they cost in the country.

The distilleries of the United States occasion such a consumption of grain, that the prices of grain, and meal made of grain, are and will always be kept high. By Coxe's statement, made by order of Congress, the spirits distilled in the United States in A.D. 1810, were nearly 26 millions of gallons. Malt liquors, worth nearly one million of dollars, were also made in the same year, entirely from grain. The consumption of grain, meat and grain liquors, by the manufacturers of the United States, who are computed to make goods, (by the same statement) worth 200,000,000 dollars, is immense. Flour and meat will come high to the country around Charleston and the counties along the sea, for consumption and exportation, unless farms, like the Northern farms, shall be established and multiplied on the rivers leading to their coast, such as Broad river, Pacolet, Catawba, &c. And since men will and must use drink, as well as victuals, the supply of drink (beer, cider and spirits) from our breweries, orchards and distilleries, is very important to all the southern seaboard towns and counties. The molasses and spirits of all the sugar colonies, in the West Indies and South America, are far short of the United States' distillery, which was equal to 238,000 puncheons in 1810, besides the malt liquors and cider.

The industry of North Carolina is very great. By the



same return (Coxe's statement) it appears, that North Carolina had in 1810 as follows: Looms for weaving, 40,978: spinning wheels for wool, cotton and flax, 128,484: blacksmith's shops, 3,000: cloths of cotton, flax, wool and hemp, made in that year, were 7,376,154 yards: 20 fulling mills: 79,400 dollars value of hats made: 23 iron works: leather tanned to the value of 396,000 dollars: shoes and boots made to the value of 22,000 dollars: 9 flaxseed oil mills in the western districts (proving the capacity to produce flax, though cotton engages far more attention): 5,426 stills, making 1,386,691 gallons, value 758,005 dollars: eight gunpowder mills: salt vats: paper mills: rope walks: gunsmiths: tobacco manufactories: very numerous saw mills: grist mills: and cotton ginning mills: saddlers: harness makers: wagon makers: cabinet makers, &c. This statement of manufactures, though far short of the truth, proves great internal industry. The western districts have vast quantities of iron ore, with abundance of wood for furnaces, and for charcoal for forges, smith's shops and manufactures of metal. Potashes and pearl-ashes can be manufactured in the district of country spoken of, where the growing woods are generally of the suitable kinds. Boards, plank, scantling, treenails, and ship timber, in rafts, may be floated down the rivers. Quercitron bark, manufactured into powder, can be made, in great quantities, for exportation.

The cork tree may be introduced from Europe and Africa. The olive tree, which produces to France 75 millions of livres per annum, (exceeding 14 millions of dollars) can be produced with certainty in those counties. The Castile and French and Greek white soap manufacture may be introduced, and will give the common olive oil great value. The cheese of Parma, Lombardy, and



Switzerland is produced in a similar climate. The fig and the prune and many of the wines of France, with the wine-brandy, may be profitably introduced, in the cultivation of the district.

The streams of water are numerous and abundant, for mills and works of all kinds to save labour, and for irrigating or watering grounds. It is a fine climate and soil, for every description of melons and for the sweet and white potatoe, onions, turnips, cabbages, beets, pumpkins, &c.

The introduction of domestic and general manufacturing, especially of the kinds which consume the raw materials and provisions, wood and building materials upon the spot, is a very plain and very sure mean to promote the prosperity of the country described, and its capacity to supply the lower and coast-country and ports. 856 stills, and 1187 looms, in the two adjoining counties of Lincoln and Rutherford, are proof of the practicability of manufactures of cotton, wool, flax, and hemp, and of grain, fruit, &c.

The state of South Carolina has completed a road from Charleston, by her seat of government (Columbia) through the counties of Rutherford and Buncombe, to Knoxville, by which a western trade is opened to them, and they are made a thoroughfare for all sorts of furs and peltries, salt-petre, and other valuable western goods.

The grand and principal dependence of the sea coast counties and ports, for various supplies (and especially of cattle and all animals, which can be driven to market without expense of carting) must be upon the country on the waters of the Santee, Enoree, Saluda, Broad, Pacolet, Pedee, and Catawba rivers. That very prosperous and rising city, and most convenient port for the



West India trade, Charleston, has the deepest interest in the settlement of all the country on those streams: and that country will have a sure and never-failing support in the consumption and exportation of Charleston, and the adjacent ports, and of the great lower and sea-coast planting country. The grape-vines of the vicinity of Champagne, Burgundy, Hockheim, Sauterne, Bordeaux, Oporto and Xeres (Sherry) ought to be introduced without any delay, and the olive tree of Dauphiny, Provence, and Italy, with the fig of *Smyrna*, the prune or plumb of *Tours*, and other parts of France, the currant of *Zante*, and silk-worm of Spain, France and Italy. The first great benefits will be from the ordinary and necessary articles of supply of country produce, such as fine flour, spirits, cattle, horses, sheep, mules, swine, bacon, cheese, butter, tallow, wax, iron, &c. but all the various foreign productions mentioned in this paper, will be necessary to a right system to promote the wealth of the country above mentioned, and the accommodation and prosperity of the planters and merchants, on that very important and opulent sea-coast, especially in war-time.

The productive advantages of climate appear, in visible form, in favour of the counties of Mecklenberg, Lincoln, Rutherford, &c., when it is observed that the incessant frosts of Canada have obliged that government to open their ports on the lakes and the St. Lawrence, for grain, flour and meat, in the months of October and November, 1816, when the grain harvest and fatted cattle ought to have been most abundant. The waste of food and expense of fuel, in long winters, destroy the farmer's profits.

The rapid growth of white population, in the middle and western districts of North Carolina, indisputably prove it to be a very healthy country:



The markets of Augusta in Georgia, Fayetteville, and other places in North Carolina, and the towns on the French Broad, as well as Charleston, have a convenient and beneficial bearing upon the country on the Pedee, Catawba, and Broad rivers, so as to ensure its steady progress and great prosperity.

In 1810, the population of North Carolina was 555,500 persons. Lincoln, Rutherford and Buncombe had in that year 53,110 persons. The population of those three counties is probably now little short of that of the Delaware state.

The maple sugar, though not so much manufactured in North Carolina as it might be, is a sure, convenient and promising production of the soil, climate and natural growth of wood there. In the year 1810, the quantity of 162,340 pounds was made in the eastern district only, of the state of Tennessee, which joins North Carolina, and is in the same latitudes: 2,471,647 pounds of maple sugar were made in the same year in Kentucky.

The woods, which grow on the waters of the Broad, Greene, Pacolet, Catawba, &c. are the oak of various kinds, hickory, locust, pine, poplar, maple, post oak, persimmon, buckeye, wildcherry and chesnut. The grape-vine is large, and frequent.

All kinds of family manufactures prevail in the state of North Carolina, as the looms and spinning wheels prove. The water cotton-ginning-mill is erected in numerous places. The carding and spinning machinery and water loom would be profitably introduced in the counties in the western districts, which could make cotton yarn and cloths, on terms to bear transportation to market and yield great profits, being raised on cheap lands, compared with the flax lands of the middle, northern and eastern states. Air-furnaces for iron castings, rolling,



slitting and nail water-mills, steel works, iron works in general, white and green glass works, potteries, tanneries, the turnery, manufactures of leather of all kinds, fine hats, wool hats for the labourers below, pot-ashes, pearl-ashes, and the most choice and valuable breeds of animals, hold out the plainest and strongest invitations for attention, to the body of farmers, merchants, and capitalists.

It will be useful to observe, that wheat, barley, oats, sheep, horses, mules and horned cattle are produced in great quantities in the four Barbary states of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, though the climate is much warmer than even Louisiana and Florida. Morocco lies in 28 to nearly 36 north latitude, and near its north angle the climate is so warm, that at the port of *Tetuan*, oranges are sold at 3s. 6d. sterling, less than 78 cents, per thousand. Nearly all Morocco lies south of the latitude of *Tetuan*, yet all Morocco produces wheat even in the 28th degree of N. latitude. In Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, wheat, barley, oats and apples grow in all the oak and hickory country, as well as on the Chesapeake, Susquehannah, Delaware and Hudson. The peach grows in all the same southern countries of America and Africa, in the greatest perfection, for the table, for drying and for the still.

The state of Tennessee, having 261,727 inhabitants, of which only 44,535 are slaves, forms a most respectable and effectual frontier against the Indians, who have long ceased to assail North Carolina.

The distance of the Lincoln and Rutherford farmers from the sea is not greater than that of the residences of Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and besides the present natural navigation of the Catawba, Broad and Pacolet rivers, there is an excellent navi



gation from the adjoining counties of South Carolina to Charleston, so as greatly to diminish the expense of transportation. It is capable of material improvement. Cattle have been driven, at less than one dollar per head, from the western or Morgan district in North Carolina to Philadelphia, and they can therefore be conveniently driven one third of the distance, from the North Carolina counties on Broad and Catawba rivers, to Fayetteville, Georgetown, Charleston, Augusta, and Savannah river.

Cattle have been brought to Philadelphia from the counties of New York, on the streams emptying into lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, to the number of 8 or 9000 head in a season. The distance was, in most instances, above 300 miles, and, in very few, less than 200 miles, which is the distance from those North Carolina rivers and counties to Charleston. The total export of live cattle from the United States has been from 4500 to 8000 head in a year. Superior breeding animals ought to be made an object of *primary* and *unceasing* attention, in the farming settlements, on the upper waters, destined to supply Charleston, Fayetteville and all the sea-coast, with horses, cattle, mules, sheep, swine, &c. Washington county in Pennsylvania, is 300 miles west of Philadelphia, on the Ohio river, and on the western boundary of Pennsylvania. That county had, in A.D. 1810, 36,289 people; 47,206 sheep (more than any other county of Pennsylvania); 8763 spinning wheels; 1774 weavers, chiefly men; 4115 pairs of hand cards; 6 carding machines; 12 fulling mills; 301 distilleries; 146 blacksmith's shops; 20 hatters; 19 saddlers; made 57,000 pairs of shoes and boots; had 62 coopers; made 530,775 yards of woollen, hempen, flaxen and cotton cloths, importing its cotton from Tennessee, &c.; made 913,000 bricks; had also 4 oil mills; 65 saw mills; 110 flour mills; 9 potteries; powder



mills; 34 tanneries; 7 naileries; 3 breweries; made 3536 saddles and bridles; 8 cutlers and coppersmiths; 6 cotton manufacturing establishments; no iron works, being without much ore; built 70 tons of vessels; had 17 cabinet makers; made wagons worth 3,540 dollars, and other manufactories, worth in all 1,630,000 dollars for that single year. The return of neat cattle of the same county of Washington for the same year was 34,985, and of horses 17,391. The horses were about equal to those of the greatest county in the state, and the neat cattle were more numerous than those of 35 out of 40 counties. It is a fair and real example of what may be done in the counties on the Catawba, Broad and Pacolet rivers, which are nearer to Charleston than Washington county (of Pennsylvania) is to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington city, Georgetown and Alexandria.

The Bohemia German glass works send their wares to Hamburg and Trieste, which are greater distances than from the North Carolina counties above mentioned to the sea.

The peach brandy distillery of North Carolina yields a very elegant liquor, and if made of sixth proof, for reduction to 4th proof by fine water in Charleston, would compete with the best French Cognac or Bordeaux brandy, to the utmost advantage.

The capacity of the climate to produce rice in the country on the North Carolina streams, which flow into the Broad, Pacolet and Catawba rivers, may be relied on. It is well known, that the farmers there now raise only small quantities of rice, as they formerly raised only small quantities of cotton. But the capacity of the counties, along the south side of North Carolina, to produce rice, is certain. It is important to remark, that the rice of *Piedmont* is well known, in the markets of France, England, Holland and Germany; and Piedmont is be-



between 44 degrees 15 minutes, and 45 deg. 50 min. N. latitude, and is (in the temperature of Turin to Novara,) about equal to Rutherford and Lincoln, in North Carolina. The produce of Piedmont is wheat, the wine grape, and other fruits, rice in plenty, hemp, flax, silk, Indian corn, there called maize, the olive and the fig, with horses, horned cattle, sheep, swine, asses and mules.

Lucca, famous for olive oil, is in 44 deg. and Provence, in France, is in 44 deg. 30 min. producing the best of that kind of oil.

It is a remarkable fact, that the return of manufactures of the United States makes the quantity of spirits distilled in Kentucky 2,220,723 gallons, and values those spirits at 740,242 dolls. and the same return of manufactures states the quantity of spirits distilled, in the same year, in North Carolina, at 1,386,691 gallons, and values that quantity at 758,936 dollars. The two causes of this difference of value are, that a much larger proportion of the North Carolina spirits is the exquisite and valuable peach brandy, while those of Kentucky are, in a much greater proportion, grain spirits. The other cause is, that the North Carolina distillers have the benefit of selling to the numerous sea-coast planters of sugar, rice, indigo, cotton, and tobacco, who will not suffer their labourers to lose their time in raising grain and fruit to distil. The western or Morgan district of North Carolina had, in 1810, one fourth of the stills of that state.

The climate of Lombardy and Parma in Italy resembles that of the counties under consideration. It produces wheat, maize, olives, olive oil, flax, hemp, the best mulberry tree, silk, the wine grape, the fig, the finest cheese in the world, butter and vast numbers of horses, sheep, cattle, asses, mules and swine.

The object of these inquiries and observations, about



the climates and valuable productions of other countries, is to prove to the farmers, planters, merchants and others, how greatly the upper country is neglected, though capable of pouring, as from many fountains, a stream of comfortable and beneficial abundance on the lower planting counties, and into the seaport towns, for home consumption and exportation, to the great profit of the northern, eastern and European farmers, who may buy and settle there.

It may be useful to remark, that the climates of Europe and America are considered to compare, in warmth or in temperature; in the following manner: America in 35th deg. north latitude is considered to be as warm, for vegetation and production, as the European 45th deg. Thus St. Mary's, in Georgia, is about as warm, for vegetation, as Oporto in Portugal, and the productions of Europe, in any given latitude, may be found in or introduced into the United States, in latitudes nine or ten degrees further south. The pride of all Europe, in wines, is certainly the wines of the following places:

|  |                          |   |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Champagne, in latitude 49° N. in Europe equal to 39° to 40° in U. S.                 |                          |   |
| Burgundy   | 48                       | = to 38 to 39                             |
| Old Hock wine  | 49                       | = to 39 to 40                             |
| Bordeaux Claret and Sauterne   | } 45                     | = to 35 to 36                             |
| Best brandy of the wine grape: Bordeaux and Cognac                                   | } 45                     | = to 35 to 36                             |
| Rice has been produced in  | } 45 in Dauphiny, Fr.    | = to 35 to 36                             |
| Rice from Turin to Novara, in Piedmont gives plentiful crops                         | } 45 $\frac{3}{4}$       | = to 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Olives commence as high as Lyons, Grenoble, and Chamberry                            | } 45 30 Fr. & Savoy      | = to 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| The wine district of Europe for the finest wines from Xeres to Epernay, in Champagne | } 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 49 | = to 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 39 and 40        |



Apples grow and produce well every where in Europe, except where the wine and brandy interfere with the use of cider. In America the apple produces well, for the table and for cider and for the distillery, because the grape does not yet interfere with the production of apples and with cider, in the southern states of America. But northern farmers can and will propagate the apple in a greater degree, with much pleasure and advantage.

The legislature of South Carolina have established an incorporated company to improve the navigation of the Pacolet and Broad rivers, by locks and hydraulic constructions and operations.

The shad fish regularly ascend from the sea into the counties of Rutherford, Lincoln, Rowan, &c. by the Broad river, Catawba, and Pedee, and are at once a convenience to the farmers, and an evidence of improvable navigation.

The prosperity of Charleston and of the sea-ports of Norfolk in Virginia, Newbern, Wilmington, Edenton, Beaufort, Plymouth and Washington, &c. in North Carolina, and of Georgetown, in South Carolina, are strong evidences of the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial advantages of North Carolina, which sends a great quantity and value of goods to those places. The exports of Charleston alone have amounted, in a single year, to 14,304,000 dollars of domestic and foreign goods. A very large proportion of the productions of North Carolina also go, coastwise, to the other states, and therefore do not appear in the returns of exports, which only notice exports to foreign places.

In the time of president Washington, North Carolina



and Tennessee were one state. By the census of 1810, North Carolina alone had a population of

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                               | 555,500 persons. |
| Tennessee had besides         | 261,727          |
|                               | <hr/>            |
| Total population              | 827,227          |
|                               | <hr/>            |
| Pennsylvania in A.D. 1810 had | 810,091          |
|                               | <hr/>            |
| Massachusetts and Maine had   | 700,795          |

The most convenient approaches to Lincoln and Rutherford by sea are, *first*, by way of Wilmington in North Carolina on Cape Fear river, and thence by an excellent boat navigation to Fayetteville, a town of 400 to 500 houses, thence by wagons to Charlotte, Lincolnton and Rutherfordton: or *secondly*, by Charleston in South Carolina, and thence by wagons to Lincolnton or Rutherfordton.

The town of Fayetteville (North Carolina) is now actually very considerable in the manufactory of wheat flour, and in the autumn of 1810 the highest priced flour in the Charleston market was stated, in their gazettes, to be the *Camden* (South Carolina) flour, which two facts prove the capacity of the soil and climate for good wheat. The southern white wheat degenerates into red, in the northern parts of America.

The wheat bread of *Cagliari* in the island of Sardinia is said to be the whitest on the Mediterranean sea, and very fine. The flour is made of the wheat of that island, in which oranges, dates, grapes, figs, &c. grow in abundance. The latitude of *Cagliari* is 39 degrees North in Europe, equal in America to 29 or 30 degrees. The South is favourable to wheat.